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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SOVIET MANGANESE MINING EFFICIENCY ON UPSWING

[This report presents information from Soviet newspapers on progress in two of the major Soviet manganese mining regions, Nikopol' and Chiatura, which have been increasing their output and improving mining methods.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

Chiatura Mines

Zarya Vostoka of 8 April 1953 appraised the Chiaturmarganets Trust and found that the concentration plants have been consistently increasing their output of first-grade manganese ore. Since manganese is vital to the ferrous metallurgical industry, great importance has been attached to the development and inculcation of new mining techniques and equipment.

The paper stated that high-frequency jiggers are being used successfully at the Central Concentration Plant of the Mine Administration imeni Lenin and at the plants of the Mine Administrations imeni Stalin and imeni Ordzhonikidze. New-type mills have been introduced at the Mine imeni Dimitrov, and the Chiatura mines are being equipped with electromagnetic separators.⁽¹⁾

On 24 July 1952, Pravda Ukrainy noted that a trial run of pneumatic drills at the Mine imeni Stalin was an overwhelming success. A distance of 27.5 meters was cut in one month, as opposed to the old method which had a coverage of only 6 to 7 meters per month. A commission was named to study the possible adoption of these drills at the mine.⁽²⁾

On 19 July 1952, Leningradskaya Pravda reported that ten new high-production mining mechanisms had been installed at the Chiatura mines in 1952 and that the degree of mechanization of the extraction, transportation, and concentration of manganese ore was being increased continually. It also reported

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that a new excavator, which would replace 80 miners, had been received by the Mine imeni Ordzhonikidze and that high-power automatic equipment had been installed at the Chiaturmanganets Trust concentration plants.

According to the paper, the transportation of manganese has also been modernized. The manganese is automatically loaded into cable cars from the concentration plant bunkers and then dumped into track hoppers from which it is automatically loaded into railroad hopper cars.(3)

The Soviet press also directed some criticism at the operation of certain mine administrations and concentration plants. Zarya Vostoka of 8 April 1953 charged that the Mine Administrations imeni Stalin, imeni Dimitrov, and imeni Ordzhonikidze have not been devoting sufficient attention to the primary conditioning of manganese ore at the stopes. Plant No 5 of the Mine imeni Beriia was reported to be in deplorable condition: the major repair and partial reconstruction which were to be completed in 1952 had not yet been done.(1)

Nikopol' Mines

The manganese Mine imeni Maksimov in the Nikopol' region, according to Leningradskaya Pravda of 15 May 1953, has consistently overfulfilled its norm. It fulfilled its January - May 1953 quota 17 days ahead of schedule and mined 5.3 percent more ore than it did during the same period in 1952 (4). On 12 June 1953, Trud noted that the mine's January - June 1953 norm was also fulfilled 18 days ahead of schedule. This increased productivity was due to the use of low manganese content ores. Some of the Stakhanovites doubled their norm by mining as much as 60 tons of ore per shift.(5)

SOURCES

1. Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 8 Apr 53
2. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 24 Jul 52
3. Leningradskaya Pravda, 19 Jul 52
4. Ibid., 15 May 53
5. Moscow, Trud, 12 Jun 53

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